

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 23 of 1881.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th June 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	27th May 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	23rd ditto.
6	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	3rd June 1881.
7	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	24th May 1881.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan	296	24th ditto.
11	"Chāruvartā"	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	9th, 16th, and 23rd May 1881.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	29th ditto.
13	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	27th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	1st June 1881.
15	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	28th May 1881.
16	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	27th ditto.
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
18	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	23rd ditto.
19	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....
20	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	
21	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	2nd June 1881.
22	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	29th May 1881.
23	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	30th ditto.
24	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	30th ditto.
25	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing	.....	25th ditto.
26	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	28th ditto.
27	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	
28	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....	28th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
29	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	27th May to 2nd June 1881.
30	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	30th May to 3rd ditto.
31	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	30th May to 4th ditto.
32	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	20th May to 3rd ditto.
33	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	30th May to 3rd ditto.
34	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	21st May 1881.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	26th ditto.
37	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	26th ditto.
38	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	30th ditto.
39	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	28th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	27th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
41	"Akhbār-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
42	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

SADHARANI,
May 29th, 1881.

We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sádháraní*, of the 29th May, headed "A Rigorous Administration"—A rigorous administration

A rigorous administration. has become the order of the day; and everybody, from the common guru-mahashaya of a pathshala to the Secretary of State for India, appears, as it were, with eyes reddened and armed with a rod in his hand. But why is Government so severe upon the peaceful people of India? Why was the thunderbolt hurled upon native newspapers suddenly in one day? Why are the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code being daily made more stringent than before? Why has the civilized British Government, so late in the day, bethought itself of starving the prisoners in the jails? Why was the law enacted which provides for the punishment of a person even when he is solemnly and deliberately declared to be innocent by five of his fellow countrymen? Why were the Judges vested with the power of enhancing on appeal the sentence of an accused person? Why are students expelled from colleges on the plea of discipline, if only they happen to memorialize against their teacher? The Lieutenant-Governor insisted that the light sentence passed by Municipal Commissioners in the mofussil on persons who had failed to get births registered should give place to severer ones. This rigorous administration is at the root of Mr. Mosley's "*budjate*." Atul Babu incurred his displeasure simply because he was in the habit of passing light sentences. It is not unoften that Magistrates who pass light sentences are found to be reproved by their official superiors. The Honorary Magistrates in a district having for some time discharged the defendants in all cases brought before them, were told by the presiding Magistrate that most likely the bench would be abolished in that district, as Government would not like to see so many acquittals. Why does Government desire to rule this peaceful people with a rod of iron? Is it because, as is supposed by some, Government suspects that the people are gradually becoming less loyal than before? Even if that were the case, would a rigorous system of administration increase their loyalty to British rule?

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

CHARU VARTA,
May 9th, 1881.

2. We have received three numbers of a new weekly paper published in Sherpore, in Mymensing. It is written in chaste Bengali, and the get-up of the paper is very creditable. The number for the 9th May contains an article on the treaty with the Boers, in which the Editor expresses his opinion that this measure has been purchased at the cost of British prestige, and peace will therefore be short-lived. The power of the British nation would have been vindicated, and a lasting peace secured, had the Boers been first defeated in battle.

In another article the writer dwells on the fearful increase of intemperance in the Jamalpore division of the Mymensing district, caused by the introduction therein of the outstill system.

CHARU VARTA,
May 16th, 1881.

3. The same paper, of the 16th May, asks Government to release Yakub Khan from his captivity, and adds that the treatment of this chief is a disgrace to England.

CHARU VARTA,
May 23rd, 1881.

4. The same paper, of the 23rd May, condemns the decision passed by Mr. Croft in the recent case of the Shibpore Engineering College. He has punished the innocent with a view to screen the real offender. Mr. Croft has

become the cause of the abolition of this college. The Anglo-Indian journals are evidently delighted at this, and are expatiating on the value of discipline. They might well spare themselves this trouble. The people of India know well the duty which a pupil owes his teacher, and they would feel themselves but humiliated if they were required to take lessons in this subject from a nation whose whole code of manners consists in the inculcation of noddings and hand-shakes.

5. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 23rd May, contains a long editorial on the necessity that has arisen of amending the Jail Code. The object of punishment being

Reform of the Jail Code.

the reformation of the criminals, a rigorous system of prison discipline is not calculated to ensure success. This is well recognized by all civilized nations who have accordingly mitigated the rigor of their penal laws. England also has made much progress in this direction. In India, however, the case is different, and prisoners are subjected to a most rigorous system of discipline, which accounts for the high rate of mortality in the jails. This has been particularly the case since the time of Sir George Campbell, who was an advocate of rigorous discipline. It is gratifying to observe, however, that Sir Ashley Eden and the present Inspector-General of Jails are anxious to introduce reforms in the jail administration, and indeed they have already done something to mitigate the hardship of the prisoners. Now, a few remarks may be made in this connection. It is to be regretted that in the jails no arrangement exists for the performance of religious ministrations for the benefit of Hindu and Mahomedan prisoners, while ministers, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, are paid by Government for looking after the spiritual welfare of the Christian convicts. Then, again, the Christian prisoners are not obliged to work on Sundays, the Christmas Day, and the Good Friday; while the Hindu and the Mahomedan have no holiday at all. Does this show that Government metes out even-handed justice, or that it is impartial in the matter of religion? The education of the convicts is another point to which the attention of Dr. Lethbridge should be directed. A separate reformatory school has been established for the benefit of juvenile offenders, but what is required is that grown-up convicts should be given the opportunity of improving their minds by means of study and instruction in the jails. The Jail Code indeed contains provisions to this effect; but it is believed that they are a dead-letter. Are the requirements of section 316 of the Code ever complied with? The punishment of the convicts is the third point that deserves consideration. Here it should be observed that penal labour should be imposed in as few instances as possible. It is said that this sentence must be undergone by all convicts during the first three months of their confinement in the jails. But are not the authorities aware that, when once the health is shattered by hard labour, even chests of medicine do not help to bring it back? The practice of flogging should at once cease. Above all, the reformation of the jailors is of primary importance. Much of the cruelty and hardship to which convicts are subjected is due to the carelessness, heartlessness, and unscrupulous character of the jailors. It behoves Sir Ashley Eden and Dr. Lethbridge to attend to this matter, and in this connection to enquire whether the arrangement obtaining in the Alipore Jail, under which the jailor receives a share of the profits accruing from the sale of jail manufactures, does not work injuriously in the case of convicts.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 23rd, 1881.

6. The same paper observes, in reference to the revised Savings Bank rules, that the lowering of the rate of interest will make persons of slender means, for whose benefit the Savings Banks have been established, losers to a considerable

New Savings Bank rules.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

extent. It behoves Government to reconsider the matter, and to allow interest at the old rate of Rs. 4-2-6 per cent., while raising the amount which may be deposited in a year to Rs. 1,200, and the maximum amount of deposit to Rs. 5,000.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 23rd, 1881.

7. The same paper refers to the proposals recently made by the Chief Commissioner of Assam for the better government of the inhabitants of the Naga Hills. The Editor would ask Government not to levy harassing direct taxes from the Nagas; but to exempt the poor from all taxation, to extend an equitable treatment to all those who, owing to their inability to pay a money tax, work for a certain number of days for Government, and to give up the idea of disarming the Nagas. Disarmament will produce the greatest discontent. The Nagas would do anything rather than surrender their liberty, and disarmament, they know, will produce that result. Government also should not, considering the manner of living and the surroundings of the Nagas, disarm them. Living in jungle and in the midst of wild beasts and equally wild hill tribes, their lives would not be safe if their arms were taken away from them.

Government of the Naga Hills.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

8. The same paper remarks, in reference to the careless manner in which district authorities have in general carried out the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor regarding the removal of obstructions to drainage, that His Honor has not passed any such strictures on their conduct as may rouse them to a sense of their duty in this matter. The Lieutenant-Governor has contented himself with merely pointing out the importance of the subject, and expressing his hope that in future greater attention should be paid to it. Now, it is to be doubted whether such blandishments will ever lead to the attainment of the noble object aimed at by him. There would be some hope of witnessing sanitary improvements in Bengal, if a beginning were made in the matter of removing obstructions to drainage during the administration of the present Lieutenant-Governor; for who knows what the views of his successor may be on this subject? We therefore earnestly ask Sir Ashley Eden to put on a little more pressure upon District Magistrates and Engineers, and to call for plans and estimates of expenditure. These officers should be informed of the amount which may be advanced by Government to districts which have no road cess funds set apart for this purpose; while zemindars should be asked to state what amount of contributions they are willing to make for the prosecution of this work.

Obstructions to drainage; indifference of district authorities.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 23rd, 1881.

9. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 23rd May, earnestly beseeches Government to show mercy to the unfortunate Brahmin widow Bijaya Lakshi who has been sentenced to death by the Sessions Judge of Surat. Considering the hardships and cruel persecutions to which Hindu widows are subjected at the hands of their caste fellows, it is no wonder that cases such as that of Bijaya Lakshi should occur at times. The widow in the present case should be awarded a lighter punishment.

A Brahmin widow who has murdered her own child.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

10. The same paper confesses itself not altogether pleased with the *Bombay Gazette* for dwelling in one of its recent issues on the growing prosperity of the cotton mills in Bombay, and for telling Manchester in a spirit of defiance to do all she can to ruin them. The fact is, although the Government has acceded to all the demands of the Lancashire merchants in the matter of the abolition of the cotton duties and the enactment of a factory law for India, the Bombay mills are doing good business. But it is not politic to expatiate on their success. Failing in all her endeavours, Manchester

The Bombay cloth mills.

may next proceed to call upon the Government of India to insert a provision in the Penal Code, now that that Code is about to be amended, to the effect that all who may work a cloth mill in India shall be liable to severe punishment; and it would be no wonder if Government complied with her wishes. Government in that case could be always sure of the Lancashire vote, and Mr. Gladstone of a long lease of power.

11. A correspondent of the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 24th May, refers with surprise to the fact that in the sub-division of Manikgunge, which in local extent is as large as a district, and where there are three Munsifs working the whole day, and who yet find it hard to overtake the work; there is only one Deputy Magistrate who, besides, combines in his person the functions of a Collector and Registrar. Considering the amount of work which must be gone through, there should be at least two Deputy Magistrates at this station and no less than three Sub-Registrars. If this should be found impracticable on the score of expense, the work of registration may be made over with advantage to rural Sub-Registrars. Jaffargunge is the largest thana in local extent and population under this sub-division; but its great distance from the head-quarters causes considerable inconvenience to intending executants of documents. If a Munsif, one of the three now holding office in Manikgunge, and a rural Sub-Registrar were posted at Shivalaya, which is the centre of many important villages, such as Teota, Elachipore, Jaffargunge, and Uthli, a great boon would be conferred upon the inhabitants.

12. The *Murshidabad Patrikā*, of the 27th May, condemns the new Criminal Procedure Code Bill on the ground that it makes an invidious distinction between Natives and Europeans in favour of the latter. It is to be regretted, remarks the Editor, that Government does not perceive the unwisdom of such legislation.

13. The *Sulabha Samāchār*, of the 28th May, thinks it absurd that the Municipality should have the power of prohibiting preaching in the public squares of Calcutta. The Editor exhorts the inhabitants to make known to the authorities their grievances on the subject.

14. The *Medinī*, of the 28th May, deprecates the proposal made by the Commissioners of the Midnapore Municipality to maintain an establishment for the cleansing of all latrines situated within it, and to levy a fee for such work. This would, if carried out, put the inhabitants to greater expense, as municipal nightmen must be paid at higher rates than those usually allowed to private parties, and cause the rate-payers inconvenience by obliging them to use latrines—a practice which they greatly dislike.

15. The same paper contains a long account of the high-handed proceedings of the servants of Watson and Company in Bahadurpore in the Midnapore district, published for the information of Mr. Beames, the Divisional Commissioner, who is now in Midnapore.

16. The supplement to the same paper contains an abstract of the proceedings of Mr. Beames in Midnapore. He has, for the present, succeeded in effecting a reconciliation between the indigo planters on the one hand and the ryots on the other, and has thus earned the gratitude of the inhabitants. The writer, however, expresses a doubt whether the arrangement will secure a permanent peace.

17. The *Tripurā Vārtāvaṇa*, of the 28th May, protests strongly against the contemplated appointment of a certain clerk of the office of the Inspector-General

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 24th, 1881.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
May 27th, 1881.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
May 28th, 1881.

MEDINI,
May 28th, 1881.

MEDINI.

MEDINI.

TRIPURA VARTAVANA,
May 28th, 1881.

Sub-division Manikgunge.

The new Criminal Procedure Code Bill.

Preaching in the public squares of Calcutta.

The Midnapore Municipality and the cleansing of latrines.

Indigo oppressions in Midnapore.

Indigo oppressions in Midnapore.

Special Sub-Registrar of Commillah.

of Registration to the post of Special Sub-Registrar which has now been held for more than a year with credit by Miya Zulfikar Hyder. It is to be hoped His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will not suffer the claims of this man to be ignored in favour of another.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 29th, 1881.

New Savings Bank rules.

18. Referring to the revised Savings Bank rules, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 29th May, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 6.

DACCA PRAKASH.

19. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the extensive powers with which the law vests the Police Officers and Magistrates, many of whom, particularly the former, frequently abuse their authority. Now

The present procedure in the trial of criminal cases.

that the Criminal Procedure Code is being amended, a section should be inserted in it, providing that in all criminal cases the presiding Magistrate shall be bound to receive a full written statement of the case from the parties and to put it up with the record. This will be of great help to the Judge who hears the appeal.

SADHARANI,
May 29th, 1881.

20. In the course of an article headed "Mukrari Mourusi," the *Sádháraní*, of the 29th May, expresses its conviction that since the year 1859, when Act X was passed, the zemindars in Bengal

Mukrari mourusi rights in Bengal.

have always endeavoured to prevent the growth of mukrari mourusi rights. The state of things was different before that time. Then almost all tenants possessed *mourusi* rights in some *bastu* land, or garden, or tank, but not mourusi mukrari rights therein. The Khudkast tenants, indeed, could show prescriptive possession; but even they were liable to pay enhanced rents if the pergunnah rates were enhanced—a contingency which seldom occurred. The tenants, however, paid many contributions and cesses to the zemindar and to his naib. All this was changed by Act X, which introduced the presumption of mukrari rights in all cases where the ryot could show uniformity of payment for twenty years, and the provision regarding the right of occupancy by a twelve years' possession. The zemindars consequently became cautious from this time; and considering that they are the stronger party, it is no wonder that they have been successful in many cases. The phenomena of alluvion and diluvion, the death of occupancy tenants without heirs, the transfer of the defaulting ryots' rights by sale and the recurrence of famines, have all helped the zemindar in attaining this object. The zemindars have every inducement to extinguish mukrari rights. Their expenses have increased, and they must secure an increase of income. Their efforts to obtain a law for the speedy realization of rents by the sale of the ryots' rights, the large number of kabulyats as compared with that of pottahs registered in Bengal in 1879 (see Registrar-General's Report), and the fact recorded in a Mymensingh paper that the zemindars in that district have, in view of a new rent law, already made tenants contract themselves out of the right of occupancy, are all evidence which goes to support the Editor's contention.

SADHARANI.

21. The same paper publishes a translation of a petition made to the authorities by the inhabitants of Bergram, Balorampore, Gangarampore and certain other villages in the district of Burdwan, praying

Embankment to protect certain villages in the Burdwan district.

for the construction of two embankments with sluices for protecting those localities from the destructive inundations of the Damoodar. The writers have repeatedly represented their grievances to Government, but without any result. Sir Ashley Eden is earnestly besought to attend to their complaints.

SOM PRAKASH,
May 30th, 1881.

22. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 30th May, observes that the new railway line from Sonapore to Mugra, which is under construction, has already proved an obstruction to the drainage of Harinavi, Changri-

The Sonapore-Mugra State Railway.

pota, and Kodalia, which are situated along its length. The two culverts constructed are not sufficient for the purpose. If, in consequence of the line, all the water of these villages does not find its way to the khals, these localities will soon become unhealthy and generate malarious fever. It is therefore necessary to construct another culvert at the point where it would make the water flow into the fields lying to the east of these villages. The line has further closed certain footpaths which have been so long used by peasants in going to their fields.

23. The same paper remarks, in reference to the subject of preaching in the public squares of Calcutta, and the discussions it has given rise to, that the true solution of the difficulty will depend on the answer that may be given to the question, whether preaching in the squares really occasions any inconvenience to the public.

Preaching in the public squares of Calcutta.

SOM PRAKASH.
May 30th, 1881.

EDUCATION.

24. Writing about the recent affairs in the Shibpore Engineering College, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 23rd May, remarks that, at the time when enquiries were

The Shibpore Engineering College.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 23rd, 1881.

made on the spot by Mr. Croft, the expelled students were not present to make their complaints. It is clear that the object of Mr. Croft's visit was not to ascertain the facts, but only to collect such evidence as might go to support his own action and that of Mr. Fouracres. Even if it be admitted that the Director was really anxious to know the truth about the matter, how was it that he first punished the boys and then enquired whether they had deserved punishment? Was such exhibition of hot-headedness becoming in a Director of Public Instruction? As to the question of discipline on which so much has been written by Mr. Croft and his supporters in the Press, it is only necessary to observe that no one denies the importance of maintaining discipline in schools and workshops. But does it follow from this that students are to bear silently and for a long time even all manner of maltreatment at the hands of a rude teacher? Now the native students in the Shibpore College have been treated with discourtesy ever since Mr. Fouracres was appointed to the institution. These students, it is to be added, are not mere children; they are as old as most English Civilians who first come out to India to govern men. To treat such young men, on the plea of discipline, as one would treat a dog or a jackal, and even to assault them, is an act, the discourtesy of which may not be perceived by Mr. Fouracres or his patron Mr. Croft, but it is patent even to the most illiterate Gurumahashaya in this country. There is not the least doubt as to the guilt or the inefficiency of Mr. Fouracres, nor is there any doubt that the expelled students have been most unjustly treated. That Mr. Croft has not been able to win a place in the hearts of native students, similarly admits of no question. What is to be doubted is whether Government really likes that native students should have the privilege of studying and competing in the Shibpore Engineering College on equal terms with Eurasian lads.

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 24th May, writing on the same subject, remarks: that the expelled students had been subjected to gross maltreatment is clear

The Shibpore Engineering College.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 24th, 1881.

enough. They would never have taken a step which was calculated to ruin their prospects in life if they had not honestly believed that petitioning Government against Mr. Fouracres was the only means of obtaining redress.

26. Owing to the biassed judgment of the Director of Public Instruction, remarks the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 24th May, one of the noblest institutions founded

The Shibpore Engineering College.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 24th, 1881.

by Sir Ashley Eden is about to suffer a premature extinction. The Editor

is not a defender of insubordination in students ; on the contrary, he recognizes the extreme importance of maintaining discipline in schools and workshops. But he denies that discipline cannot be enforced without resorting to rude and discourteous treatment ; or that corporal punishment should be inflicted upon young men. The decision of Mr. Croft is a hasty one, and not arrived at after hearing the evidence on both sides. He ought to have remembered that this was not the first time that the native students of the Shibpore College had preferred complaints against Mr. Fouracres. The local enquiries subsequently made by the Director have been extremely unsatisfactory. With all his learning, Mr. Croft lacks the penetration, impartiality, and tact which are essential to the successful administration of a great department. The premature downfall of the Shibpore College would have been an impossibility under Mr. Woodrow. It was the other day that Mr. Croft gave a death-blow to the Calcutta School Book Society, and now he has well nigh done away with the Shibpore Engineering College. Has he learnt the work of destruction alone ? Is it too late to restore the college to its former status after making impartial enquiries into the grievances of the students ?

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
May 28th, 1881.

27. Writing on the same subject, the *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 28th May, remarks that the enquiries made by Mr. Croft since his return from Darjeeling have been of an extremely unsatisfactory character. The evidence of the complainants was not taken. It will therefore be no wonder if the final decision be *ex parte*. It is perfectly clear that the expelled boys had been unjustly treated by Mr. Fouracres.

TRIPURA VARTAVAHA,
May 28th, 1881.

28. Writing on the same subject, the *Tripurá Vártávaha*, of the 28th May, asks the Lieutenant-Governor to remove Mr. Fouracres from his present post in the Shibpore Engineering College, and to allow the expelled boys to obtain re-admission.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 4th June 1881.